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CONSOLIDATION OF THE REGIME ESTABLISHED BY THE TREATY FOR THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (TREATY OF TLATELOLCO)

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Macaire KABORE (Burkina Faso)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-eighth session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/61 of 9 December 1992.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 24 September 1993, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 14 October, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 57 to 75 and 77 to 82. The deliberations on those items took place at the 3rd to 14th meetings, on 18 to 22, 25, 26 and 28 October (see A/C.1/48/SR.3-14). Consideration of draft resolutions on those items took place at the 18th to 23rd meetings, on 3 to 5, 8 and 9 November (see A/C.1/48/SR.18-23). Action on draft resolutions on those items took place at the 24th to 30th meetings on 11, 12, 15, 16, 18 and 19 November (see A/C.1/48/SR.24-30).

4. In connection with item 81, the First Committee had before it a letter dated 4 August 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the final document of the Third Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, held at Salvador, Brazil, on 15 and 16 July 1993 (A/48/291-S/26242 and Corr.1).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/48/L.21

5. At the 23rd meeting, on 9 November, the representative of Mexico, on behalf of Argentina, the Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)" (A/C.1/48/L.21), which was later also sponsored by the Philippines.

6. At its 25th meeting, on 12 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/48/L.21 without a vote (see para. 7).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

7. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)

The General Assembly,

Recalling that in its resolution 1911 (XVIII) of 27 November 1963 it expressed the hope that the States of Latin America would take appropriate measures to conclude a treaty that would prohibit nuclear weapons in Latin America,

Recalling also that in the same resolution it voiced its confidence that, once such a treaty was concluded, all States, and particularly the nuclear-weapon States, would lend it their full cooperation for the effective realization of its peaceful aims,

Considering that in its resolution 2028 (XX) of 19 November 1965 it established the principle of an acceptable balance of mutual responsibilities and obligations between nuclear-weapon States and those which do not possess such weapons,

Recalling that the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) 1/ was opened for signature at Mexico City on 14 February 1967,

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1/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 634, No. 9068.

Recalling also that in its preamble the Treaty of Tlatelolco states that military denuclearized zones are not an end in themselves but rather a means for achieving general and complete disarmament at a later stage,

Recalling further that in its resolution 2286 (XXII) of 5 December 1967 it welcomed with special satisfaction the Treaty of Tlatelolco as an event of historic significance in the efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to promote international peace and security,

Bearing in mind that the Treaty of Tlatelolco is open for signature to all the sovereign States of Latin America and the Caribbean and that it contains two additional protocols that are open for signature, respectively, to the States that de jure or de facto are internationally responsible for territories located within the zone of application of the Treaty and to the nuclear-weapon States,

Bearing in mind also that, with the adherence in 1993 of Dominica, the Treaty of Tlatelolco is in force for twenty-five sovereign States of the region,

Recalling that since 1992 Additional Protocol I has been in force for all the States that de jure or de facto are internationally responsible for territories located within the zone of application of the Treaty,

Recalling also that since 1974 Additional Protocol II has been in force for the five nuclear-weapon States,

Mindful that international conditions are more propitious for the consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty of Tlatelolco,

Recalling that in 1992 the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean approved and opened for signature a set of amendments to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, submitted jointly by Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico, with the aim of enabling the full entry into force of that instrument,

Noting with satisfaction the holding of the thirteenth regular session of the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean at Mexico City on 27 and 28 May 1993,

Noting that the Government of Cuba has declared that, in pursuit of regional unity, it would be ready to sign the Treaty of Tlatelolco once all the States of the region have assumed the undertakings of that Treaty,

Taking into account the declaration presented by the delegation of Brazil at the aforementioned meeting of the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, in which it was stated that the full entry into force of the Treaty for Argentina, Brazil and Chile was imminent,

Noting with satisfaction that on 1 September 1993 the Government of Mexico became the first State to deposit its instrument of ratification of the amendments to articles 14, 15, 16, 19 and 20 of the Treaty of Tlatelolco

approved by the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, in its resolution 290 (VII), on 26 August 1992,

1. Welcomes the concrete steps taken by several countries of the region during the past year for the consolidation of the regime of military denuclearization established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco);

2. Notes with satisfaction the joint declaration by the Governments of Argentina, Brazil and Chile to the effect that the entry into force of the Treaty of Tlatelolco for those countries is imminent;

3. Urges the countries of the region that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification of the amendments to the Treaty of Tlatelolco approved by the General Conference of the Agency on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean in its resolutions 267 (E-V) of 3 July 1993, 268 (XII) of 10 May 1991 and 290 (VII) of 26 August 1992;

4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session the item entitled "Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)".